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- Simple Search Advanced Search Browse by Subject Browse by Year
- Browse by Conferences/Volumes Latest Additions

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- Home
- About the Archive
- Archive Policy
- History
- Help
- FAQ
- Journal Eprint Policies
- Register
- Contact Us

News

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Mechanistic Information and Causal Continuity

Bogen, Jim and Machamer, Peter (2010) Mechanistic Information and Causal Continuity. [Preprint]



Abstract

Some biological processes (our examples are DNA expression and a reflex response in the leech) move from step to step in a way that cannot be completely understood solely in terms of causes and correlations. This paper develops a notion of mechanistic information that can be used to explain the continuities of such processes. We compare them to processes (including the Krebs cycle) that do not involve information. We compare our conception of mechanistic information to some familiar notions including Crick' s idea of genetic information, Shannon-Weaver information, and Millikan' s biosemantic information.

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information, mechanisms, mechanistic information, DNA expression, sensori-motor reflexes, Keywords: Krebs cycle, causal explanation, causal continuity, teleology, function. Specific Sciences > Biology > Neuroscience Specific Sciences > Biology > Molecular Biology/Genetics Subjects: General Issues > Causation General Issues > Explanation Specific Sciences > Biology > Function/Teleology Depositing jim bogen User: Date 17 Feb 2010 Deposited: Last 07 Oct 2010 11:19 Modified: Item ID: 5151 URI: http://philsci-archive.pitt.edu/id/eprint/5151

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